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Re: Application No.: 09/542,036

This facsimile is to confirm our interview scheduled for Wednesday July 28, 2004. Attached is a copy of the Interview Issue to be Discussed.

Interview Issue to be Discussed

The issue is whether the following equation 6, of the mean square value, found in Cezanne et al. at col. 6, line 5, where N is chosen to be as large as possible (see col. 7, lines 5-11):

$$\beta = \frac{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=0}^{n=N-1} c_B(n)c_F(n)}{\frac{1}{N}\sum_{n=0}^{n=N-1} c_B{}^2(n)}$$

Is equivalent to the Claim 20 language of "forming a ratio of said output signals of said first and second microphone sub-arrangements, thereby generating a ratio result" where the definition of ratio is "a proportional relationship between two different numbers or quantities" or "a quotient of two numbers or expressions arrived at by dividing one by the other" (see http://encarta.msn.com/dictionary_/ratio.html).

Note that equation 6, above, in expanded form, is equivalent to:

$$\beta = \frac{\left[\frac{1}{N}\right]\cdot\left[c_B(0)\cdot c_F(0) + c_B(1)\cdot c_F(1) + c_B(2)\cdot c_F(2) + \ldots + c_B(N-1)\cdot c_F(N-1)\right]}{\frac{1}{N}\cdot\left[c_B{}^2(0) + c_B{}^2(1) + c_B{}^2(2) + \ldots + c_B{}^2(N-1)\right]}$$

Which is clearly NOT a ratio of said output signals of said first and second microphone sub-arrangements, as recited in the claim. The above equation from Cezanne is more properly described as a "ratio of a sum of the products of two signals divided by a sum of the signals squared over an interval [0 , N]", which is generally the description given in col. 7, lines 14-27.